



11 May 2005

Michael E. Alpert, Chairman
Little Hoover Commission
925 L Street, Suite 805
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Public Hearing on May 26, 2005 on California's Public Health Readiness in
Case of A Bioterrorism Incident

Dear Chairman Alpert:

Thank you for asking the Public Health Institute to comment on the current state of public health readiness in case of a bioterrorism incident. Attached you will find a statement of our concerns. This information was obtained through discussions with staff and review of various documents showing state-by-state comparisons of Bioterrorism Readiness.

Also attached are copies of the 2003 and 2004 reports from the Trust for America's Health, entitled *Ready or Not*. You may already be familiar with these documents but we thought they made excellent companions to the California-specific information.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 510 285 5594, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Carmen R. Nevarez, MD, MPH
Medical Director & VP of External Relations

Encl.
cc: Hattie Hanley

555 12th Street, 10th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607 / 510-285-5500 / Fax: 510-285-5501